GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Breakdown in Communication due to Rains
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tele-communications network has been hit very badly in Tamil Nadu including Chennai due to recent rains and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the telecom network, both wireline and wireless has been restored by all concerned telecom operators including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status thereof and the action taken by the Government to complete restoration of communication system;

(d) whether the Telecom Service Providers have also suffered heavy losses due to recent rains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.
STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.358 FOR 23rd DECEMBER, 2015 REGARDING "BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATION DUE TO RAINS".

(a) Yes Madam.The telecommunication network in Tamilnadu including Chennai service area has been hit badly due to recent rains. The details of telecommunication network affected operator-wise during the recent rains in Tamilnadu including Chennai Service area is enclosed as Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) The details of Telecommunications Network (both wireline and wireless) restored by all concerned Telecom Service Providers including BSNL is enclosed as Annexure-II.DOT issued prompt directions to all the Telecom Service Providers regarding measures to be taken to restore communication facilities in Tamilnadu & Puducherry. Copy of the said direction is enclosed as Annexure-III. DOT also coordinated with all TSPs to ensure prompt implementation of the said instructions and mitigate the hardship of the affected people.

(d) & (e) Most of the TSPs suffered substantial losses of revenue. They also suffered loss of resources like Battery/Power Plant, damages of Underground Cables, Exchanges / Base Transceiver Station (BTS) cards rendered faulty due to high voltage and entry of water into the Exchange premises.The details of losses suffered by the Telecom Service Providers is enclosed as Annexure-IV. Further, the TSPs are restoring their network on their own as per business imperative. Government has no plan to compensate them in this regard.